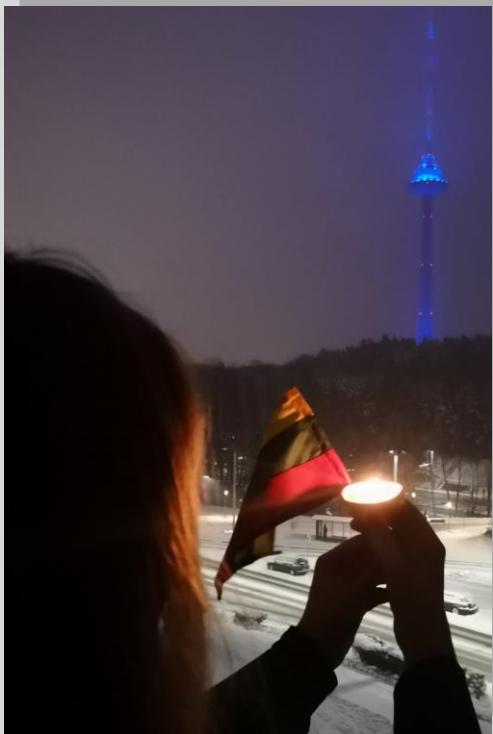




NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2020



Vilnius „Rytas“ progymnasium

“January 13th allows all the generations to understand that Freedom is not just a gift; it has not been given. The road to freedom was paved with blood. Therefore, it is both a responsibility and an obligation to protect and nurture it. ”

Emanuelis Zingeris, Chairman of the International Commission, Signatory of the Act of Independence.



Photo from personal archive



THE CIVIC INITIATIVE

"MEMORY IS ALIVE BECAUSE IT TESTIFIES"

The International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania has traditionally invited Lithuanian educational institutions, state institutions, and organizations, and all people of goodwill to remember the civil victory over the aggressor in January 1991 and to join the civic initiative "Memory is Alive Because It Testifies."

The "Memory Is Alive Because It Testifies" initiative has been annually inviting to light up candles of unity, remembrance, and victory in the windows for ten minutes on the morning of January 13th at 8.00. This year, even in difficult quarantine conditions, more than 1600 institutions joined the initiative and commemorated the historic 30th anniversary of our Nation's victory over the aggressor.

In expressing his sincere gratitude on behalf of the commemoration organizers to all those who joined the initiative, Ronaldas Racinskas, Executive Director of the International Commission, reminds us that the initiative's mission is to realize that the victory of January 1991 is the most prominent event in the modern history of our country - it was an essential breaking point in the journey of regaining independence and its strengthening; it decided upon the future of our state and the fundamental international geopolitical processes. In those days, the fates of all the nations and states enslaved by the Soviet empire were largely decided. The future of Europe was largely decided. We can be proud that our unity and desire for freedom were stronger than the armed aggressor; the citizens of Lithuania defended the restored state's independence and won the historic victory that led to the triumph of the ideas of freedom and democracy on our continent.

The patron of the initiative, the President of the Republic of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda, thanked the organizer of the initiative - the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania - for educating the nation's historical memory and promoting citizenship. He also thanked teachers and students from more than a thousand schools and other educational institutions, who, despite the strict quarantine conditions, participated in the campaign this year and emphasized that

"We, the Lithuanian people, stood shoulder to shoulder to defend our state three decades ago. And we defended it. We did not hesitate, and we stood up; we did not give up. "



Photo from LRP (Lithuania Republic Presidency)

INITIATIVES IN LITHUANIA



Kupiškis Povilas Matulionis progymnasium



Pakruojis culture center



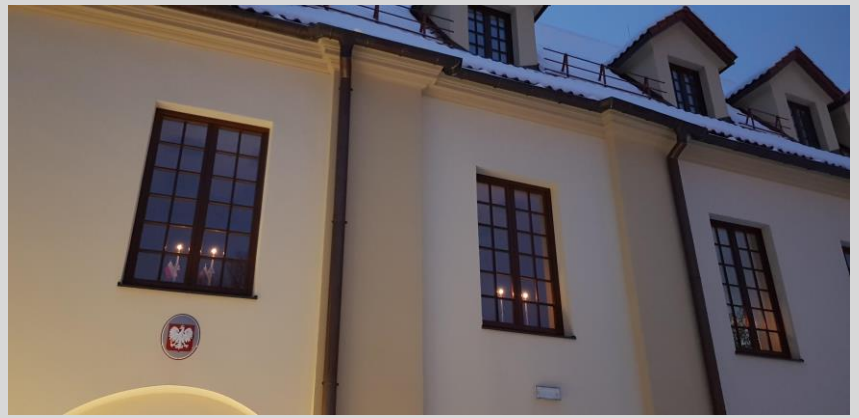
Šėduva kindergarten



Social care center „Vija“



Kėdainiai kindergarten „Vaikystė“



Poland Embassy in Vilnius



E.Blazevic photo from lrt.lt

"Lithuania had its own historical mission - to break this doctrine of deception and violence, and the red empire of lies broke in Lithuania. [...] That was our victory in the battle of Vilnius for the freedom of many nations."

Vytautas Landsbergis, the first Head of the State of Lithuania after the restoration of independence, Chairman of the Supreme Council-Restorative Seimas.

INITIATIVES WORLDWIDE



Lithuania Embassy in Belarus



Lithuania UNESCO Embassy in Paris, France

"Today, people all over Lithuania burn bonfires and candles. [...] Our Union owes it to the defenders of freedom because today's Europe would look different without their courage. [...] The events of January 1991 were a decisive factor in ending our continent's division and destroying the Soviet empire. [...] Let's celebrate freedom!"

Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president, addressed the Lithuanian people in her speech.

Photo from 15min.lt





Lithuania Embassy in India



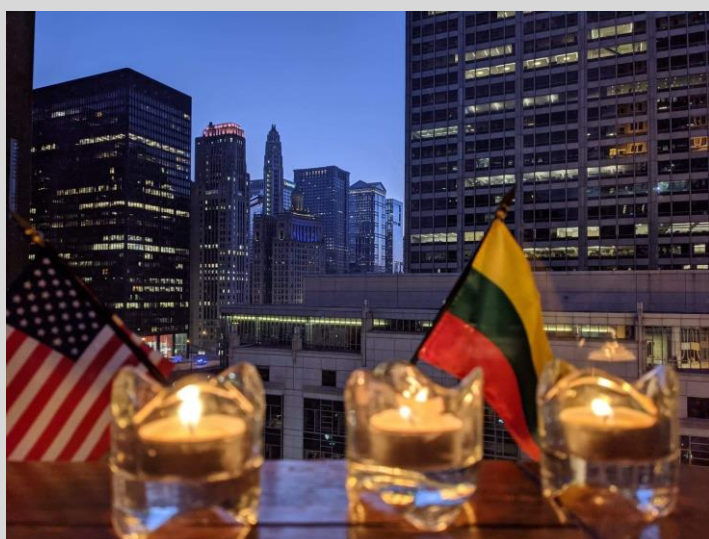
The citizenship initiative "Memory Is Alive Because It Testifies" has been organized since 2008. The number of educational institutions and other institutions supporting this initiative has been growing every year. The initiative is actively supported not only by Lithuanian general education institutions but also by state institutions: President, Seimas, Government, Ministries, Embassies of the Republic of Lithuania abroad, foreign missions in Lithuania, museums, libraries, hospitals, police commissariats, border guards, various bodies and organizations, Lithuanian citizens.

"Celebrations, days of remembrance, especially the ones like the Day of Defenders of Freedom, are times the society's mobilization and the state's strengthening. They provide a unique opportunity to connect to those feelings, efforts, self-determination, and the people, thanks to whom we are now free, we have our own state."

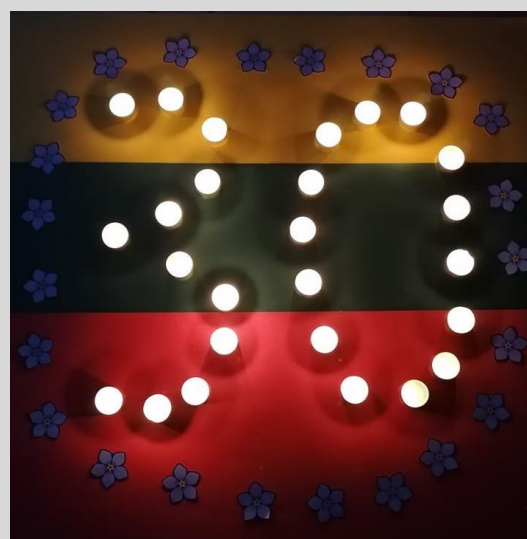
Viktorija Cmilyte-Nielsen, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania



O. Posaškova photo from Irs.lt



Lithuania Consulate General in Chicago



Alytas Vidzigris progymnasium

More information about the initiative:

<http://www.komisija.lt>